

REMARKS:

Careful consideration has been given to the Official Action of February 25, 2010 and reconsideration of the application as now presented is requested.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as being allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner states that “claims 1, 7 and 8 refer to the first and second group of stop members, but the specification does not teach a group of stop member, but stop member of a succession. In addition claim 1 reads first and second group members being alternatingly disposed on the opposite sides of said reference plane (T), but was not found in the specification”.

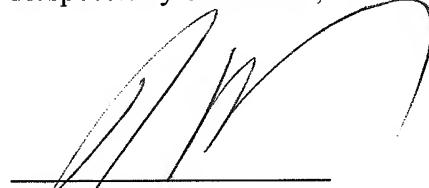
Although the Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as previously presented were fully supported by the original application, claims 1, 7 and 8 have been amended to replace the term “group” with “succession” to be more consistent with the specification, without narrowing the scope. It is noted that the original claims recited “succession” and the present amendment merely reverts to that term, which had already been considered by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this does not raise any new issue and should be considered after final rejection.

The claims as now presented are fully supported by the original application. Specifically, the specification discloses, for example, in paragraph [0020] of the US publication, that “Consequently, fingers 40 of rings 38 and 39 define respective succession 41, 42 of fingers 40, located on opposite sides of reference plane T; fingers 40 in each

succession 41, 42 are spaced about longitudinal axis 2 with a spacing equal to twice the spacing of grooves 12, and are offset, with respect to fingers 40 in the other succession 42, 41 and about longitudinal axis 2, by a spacing equal to the spacing of grooves 12; and if one groove 12 is engaged by a finger 40 in succession 41, the two adjacent grooves 12 are engaged by respective fingers 40 in succession 42.” (Emphasis added). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the specification clearly provides support for the recitation that “the first and second successions of stop members being alternatingly disposed on the opposite sides of said reference plane (T)...”.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all rejections and objections of record have been overcome and that the application is now in allowable form. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,



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